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**The Iowa Blind History Archive
History of Blindness in Iowa - Oral History Project
Interview with [Name]
Conducted by [Name]
[Date]
Transcribed by [Name]**

NOTE: Any text included in brackets [] is information that was added by the narrator after reviewing the original transcript. Therefore, this information is not included in the audio version of the interview.

**Lucy Bagley, Des Moines, Iowa
Mary Clarke
10-11-10**

Mary Clarke: My name is Mary Clarke. I am interviewing Lucy Bagley today. The date is October 11, 2010. The approximate time is 9:30. Lucy's address is: 2920 51st Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50310. Her phone number is area code (515) 277-9838. The focus of our interview is going to

be on her husband Monty, who was a student in the Adult Orientation Center, and the Home Industries program, which is a program to give jobs to blind Iowans. Lucy and I both worked at the Iowa Department for the Blind for a number of years, and we'd shared different experiences. So, it's good to have Lucy back today. Lucy, do I have your permission to record this information?

Lucy Bagley: Fine. Yes, thank you.

Clarke: I guess I'd like to start, Lucy, with how you met your husband, Monty.

Bagley: Well, we both worked at a creamery dairy and I was the receptionist/bookkeeper. And so, Monty was hired in April to be a delivery man; so kind of decided from there.

Clarke: And, was this in Des Moines, or...

Bagley: It was in Fort Dodge, and we worked there even after we was married and then it went to a different owner; and so then we didn't work there any more; we went to another dairy. But then I got pregnant, and so I quit work.

Clarke: And, I understand Monty had diabetes?

Bagley: Yes.

Clarke: And, was that Juvenile Diabetes or was that Adult Onset?

Bagley: When he was three years old, he fell out of the hay mound in Wisconsin. He was the first person in Wisconsin to have Insulin. They didn't even know how to deal with the Insulin at that time. And so, they said he would only live to be about nine years old, and so he did longer than that.

Clarke: Oh wow! So, then later on as a result of his diabetes, he became blind, right?

Bagley: Yes. When we first got married, I didn't even think anything about it. But, it wasn't long after we had, oh, a couple of children, that he went to have glasses; first time glasses. He said that the doctor said his eyes were very bad, and so from then on we were going to Omaha to have laser...that was first laser treatments; it was very new, but we were just getting that mess...he called them horse tails in his eyes all these tails running around.

Clarke: Like floaters?

Bagley: Yes, that's the word he used. And so, then we knew, then, that it was getting bad. So, he had another truck route job with Borden's Ice-Cream, and then they realized that his eyes was getting too bad, so he retired from there.

Clarke: Okay, and how old was he at that time?

Bagley: About 35, because he died when he was 41. So, he was coming to the Commission during that next set of times.

Clarke: So, he was around 35 when he came as a student into the Orientation Center?

Bagley: Yes.

Clarke: Do you know what year that was?

Bagley: Yes. Let's see, he went, oh...he came to Des Moines in the spring of '65, and that's when I sold my house in Fort Dodge and I began to prepare to come to Des Moines. So, that was in '65 and then he came down to the Center.

Clarke: Do you have any stories about his experiences in the Center?

Bagley: Oh my, yes! (Laughter) At first he was very despondent. He'd write me and just, "I got to come home. I got to come home." But, I can see why they said we couldn't come down for, I forget, now, how long it was after he was here, to get them orientated, to get them to be happy here. And, pretty soon he just...and when he got his white cane and came home on the bus, he was proud. He got off that bus and I met him at the bus depot, and the kids were even proud of him with him using his cane. He was well ready to take the next step.

Clarke: That's great, because sometimes just the opposite happens. So, that's really wonderful. So, when he came...that was the first time he came home with his cane, and then did you then move to Des Moines?

Bagley: Yes. In March of that...he came...in November...October the year before, and so by March I put the house up for sale of the next year. And, I sold the house in three days. The neighbor man across the street bought the house. So, I came to Des Moines to buy a house, to look for a house, and I found it the first morning. And, the house had been taken off the market, because the houses weren't selling in Des Moines at that time, and I gave them an offer and they took it. But Monty said, "When we buy a house, buy one near a bus stop, a brick house, because I can't paint a house, and one we can afford." It was just great. I'm still in the house to this very day, almost 50 years later.

Clarke: Oh, that's pretty neat. So, then while he was in the Center I think they were building the new kitchens, or which at that time would have been the new kitchens in Home Ec.

Bagley: Yes.

Clarke: And, I believe that he had some part in that?

Bagley: Yes, that was what we called the back kitchen, or the second kitchen. And, he came home and he told me...I forget who was helping him; he was a lawyer. He said, "I'm going to be building a kitchen at the Commission." I said, "Oh, what do you know about building?" He said, "Oh I don't know, but they think I can do it." And so, they was ripping it out and tearing it out; and I was very proud when I came here to work at the Commission. That's the kitchen Monty made!

Clarke: Yes. Did you hear any story about them putting a silver dollar behind the cupboards?

Bagley: Yes. When Monty told me that I says, "Oh that's something." I says, "That'll be there for many, many years." And, he said, "Well, that's what I want," He says. And, here it was ironic that I worked at the Commission when they was doing a complete remodeling, and that kitchen was going to be remodeled. And so, I said to Mike Hicklin, I says, "Be sure and look for that silver dollar; there's a silver dollar back behind those cupboards." And, I showed him which cupboard Monty said it was, but it wasn't there. (Laughter)

Clarke: Oh.

Bagley: But, I had a big disappointment because I thought it was there, but it wasn't. (Laughter)

Clarke: Who was his Home Ec. teacher at that time?

Bagley: Ruth Schroeder. Oh dear, he had a thing for Ruth Schroeder.

Clarke: Good or bad?

Bagley: Good! Good! She called him Sunshine. He would come bouncing into that kitchen always starved. She says he'd say, "What ya got in that refrigerator?" And, he'd open it up and she'd say, "Well, you got to cook what you eat." So, he was good at the kitchen. He really was; he liked to cook.

Clarke: When he first contacted the Department, who was his contact?

Bagley: Oh, Joe Balderson. Oh, it was a lovely spring morning and Monty and I were wallpapering, and so our house was all tore up. My rugs were rolled up and here at the door was this couple, and I thought, "Oh, I don't need company right now." And so, Joe Balderson explained who he was and he heard from Social Security, I guess, how he knew, and he says, "We'd like to come in and talk to you." So, we found him a chair and we sat and he said, "We'd like to have you think about it, come to the Commission to take some training." And, Monty says, "Well, we'll think about it, but I don't know." But he signed up and said, "I'll come in October." So, that was from April till October till he came.

Clarke: And, Kenneth Jernigan was at the Department at that time?

Bagley: Yes, right.

Clarke: So, then when he...as he was in his training did they train him for any other occupation while he was here?

Bagley: Well, not really, it was Braille. Oh, he had a time with Braille, but he was learning it. But, at that time, too, we had a double reel recorder that we sent tapes back and forth, because the kids would be able to tape something for him. So, he didn't know Braille too good then; but he liked that. I think right from the start Mr. Jernigan offered him the cafeteria here in the Commission and Monty says, "I don't want that." And, I says to Monty, I says, "We don't tell Mr.

Jernigan no.” He says, “Well, I don’t think I want to be here.”

And so, by the time I came down here with plans for a house, they had given him the Valley Bank. It was the cutest little coffee shop down in the basement. And, he went in there and he cleaned that place spotless. It was really nice and he liked it. And, the people there really like Monty, and so it was a good start. He was doing good; he liked it there.

Clarke: So, he wasn’t necessarily against actually working a Business Enterprise program, but he didn’t want that particular location?

Bagley: He didn’t want to be in the building. He wanted to be out, yes.

Clarke: Oh, that’s pretty nice. Did you work with him, then when he was...

Bagley: No, not then. I would come and help him supply his counters and things like that, because kids liked to come down and get their big doughnut. (Laughter) So, then after that he got the one over there...some kind of state building with some nice, older ladies. Oh, those ladies just beloved him. But, they made those great big cinnamon rolls and he had a nice business there, too. But then, they got the capitol, him and Neil. So, he went from Valley Bank to the State building and then to the capitol; Neil and Monty shared that. He had the Lucas building, I guess, Neil did, and Monty had the capitol.

Clarke: Was there a full cafeteria, then, at the capitol?

Bagley: Oh, yes. In fact they had just...the state had...the Commission had just remodeled it and opened it up; a lot more rooms, because a legislator was coming. And, so Monty was worried about that. That was a lot of responsibility, but he did it fine. His help always loved him. He was just such a kind person. His help came back every year to work again with him, so it was a nice relationship.

Clarke: When Monty was here, was there an organization of the blind in Iowa?

Bagley: Yes, there was. In fact, he was the president one year, and so he was really involved in that chapter of the blind so it was very much our life for a while.

Clarke: In your life in what way?

Bagley: We went to all the assemblies or conventions and meetings. He was really involved in the activities of the Commission for the Blind and their programs.

Clarke: You go to conventions?

Bagley: Oh, yes. The first big one when Monty came here was Kentucky, Louisville. We went to the caves and seen all the big bats. The kids loved it. We got on a big bus and went to the convention, so that was our first convention. Big convention, but we had a lot of them here in Des Moines.

Clarke: Right.

Bagley: Always excitement. We liked those.

Clarke: I understand that there was an Iowa Association of the Blind Credit Union? I don't know if I'm saying that right.

Bagley: That's right. In fact, Monty was very involved in that from the very beginning because they wasn't loaning any money. Credit Unions wouldn't help the blind borrow money. They just said they weren't stable enough or whatever, I don't know. So, Monty and Neil Butler, too, decided that this had to stop. So, they filed what had to be done to start a credit union, the legal parts of it and got it going and it was very good.

Clarke: How did he know all that to just...

Bagley: I don't know. When I think about it now, I think whoa! He was kind of stepping on people's toes. But there was laws and orders and rules that had to be done. Well, then Jim Witte was around too. There was a lot of people that they could really get input from. But, it was a very good program.

I know we borrowed money. We didn't have to, but we did because we wanted to establish a record so that we could see that we'd pay it back; and then there's also some kind of insurance that if you had money, or however it was a death benefit, but I don't remember what that was at this...remember that it was possible. But, it was a growing concern; it really was.

Clarke: That was quite an undertaking. It does show, too, that how much confidence that he built over the years, you know, in his abilities. How old were your children when Monty passed away?

Bagley: Monty was 19, Sherry was 17 and Mark was just a teenager, 13.

15:00

Bagley: So, they were pretty well dependent on the school, and Monty was working for the...my son, Monty, was working for the phone company. And, he called up and says, "I can't come to work today, my Dad just died." And, she says, "Monty, you don't need to come to work until you want to." And so, then my daughter, Sherry, was 19 and she was getting ready to be married in June; and so that first year was a big change in my life. So, then it was just me and Mark.

Clarke: I bet that was hard times.

Bagley: It was. But yet, in other ways, it was a blessing, because they were there to help me. So, then I just built my own life, and with the kids around me we made it. And, Monty prepared us, too. It was not...we had some good discussions before he died. And so, he was willing to help us to do what was right. And, I decided to stay in my house. I wasn't going to pick up and go back to Fort Dodge. I says, "No, this is where my friends are now and I'll stay here." It was a good decision.

Clarke: So, when did you come in contact with the department again?

Bagley: That last year when Monty was home, retired and trying to keep well, I went to try to find some jobs, a job. And, my neighbor lady worked for the schools and so I said, "I'll go work to the schools." Because the summers are out and vacations are...home. So, I went to work for the school program, cafeteria and I liked that very much, but then towards the end they sent me home to take care of Monty because they said, "You should be there; we'll hold your job for you when it is necessary." So, I says fine. Well, I stayed there at home to take care of Monty, and then after he died, I went back to the schools. But, here it was coming up to June again and so, I would be out of work. So, then I called, went to Yonkers and I says, "I need a part-time job." So, then I started working at Yonkers, and I was their hostess at the cash register. I really liked that, but then Mr. Jernigan changed it all. (Laughter)

Clarke: How did that...how do you mean that?

Bagley: Well, he realized, he must have, that I was out of a job...June, when school got out, and he knew I was working at Yonkers. So, he called me in one day and he says, "How would you like to work at the Commission for the Blind?" I says, "My goodness, yes." But, everybody there had college degrees. I mean, they were well established and here they wanted me. So, I says, "Okay." But he says, "You got to quit Yonkers." He says, "You cannot work two jobs. When you work for me, you stay on one job." So, I says, "Fine."

So, that was in May and so I was there by June. So, went right to the Commission for the Blind.

Clarke: And, then when you came here...let me ask first, when you came here did you go through any training?

Bagley: Yes. What did we call it...to find out what was happening in different departments. Yes, I found out everything that was going on.

Clarke: Kind of, in a sense, an orientation to the Department.

Bagley: That's the word. We did, yes.

Clarke: So, could you talk a little bit about that?

Bagley: Well, I just went to every department. We had meetings and talked about what the Commission was all about. But, then we went to different departments and we found out what they did; what their jobs were and that's about what it was. It was very thorough. I wasn't in my Aids and Appliances for a while. (Laughter) But, that was interesting. But, that's about all I remember from that.

Clarke: Did you do any training under sleep shades at that time?

Bagley: No, or cane travel, I did not. And, I know that that later on...I don't know if that's because I'd been always around blindness with my husband. I think they just

assumed that I knew what that was all about, but I did not do that.

Clarke: So, then you were actually hired for Aids and Appliances at the time?

Bagley: That's what we called it then. Now, it's Aids and Devices. That's hard for me to think that. (Laughter) In fact, Mrs. Brunk had just turned in her notice that she wanted to retire, because her husband was ill, and Mr. Jernigan hired me the next day. And so, when I came to work, she wasn't ready to really leave yet. (Laughter) I admired her because she was so good to me. She showed me things to do and what we did.

Clarke: Helped you make that transition.

Bagley: Yeah, but she wasn't quite ready to leave herself, yet, but it worked out alright. She was a nice lady.

Clarke: There was a lady's name, Ethel Holmes?

Bagley: Yes, she was one of our sewers.

Clarke: I know that you had involvement in Home Industries. Could you tell me how that kind of evolved or how that came about?

Bagley: Well, when I first came here I found out that they were just phasing out the rugs and the mats, because that was what it was before we started making towels and things, but that was being phased out. So, the new thing

was Home Industries towels and different projects that we would send out to, oh about ten, fifteen ladies throughout the state of Iowa who would hand...do the hems. We had some people on machines, or sergers that made dish cloths and things. So, then they would send them all back and then they were paid for those items.

Clarke: Going back to, you said they made rugs and...was it rugs and what else?

Bagley: Place mats; weaving.

Clarke: Who started that, do you know?

Bagley: No. In fact, I asked Sylvia yesterday when I talked to her; she couldn't even remember who started that. That was way the first thing that the blind ever did, before it was the Commission for the Blind.

Clarke: So, they had like looms in their own homes?

Bagley: Yes. The Commission, or Department for the Blind, gave the looms to them. But, as that phase of the people died, no new ones was trained to do that, so it just died out. But, we had a huge supply, so they still had rugs and things when I came. There was a lot of people who like them. I had rugs and they just never wore out. You washed them and put them back down at the door and they were there. So, it was a program that was phased out.

Clarke: Now it's more of a craft.

Bagley: Yes. It's coming back again, yes.

Clarke: I remember my mother used to save rags, and my job was to sew all these rags together, strips of rags.

Bagley: Mary, my mother did the same thing, yes.

Clarke: But, they came out as beautiful rugs. They were just beautiful rugs.

Bagley: And, they wore like iron.

Clarke: Now, going back to Home Industries, how did people get involved? Let's say I was interested in working in Home Industries, how would I go about...

Bagley: In that time, it was the Federated Women's Club who really wanted to have a project and used the products from the blind. So, I guess they was really giving them the credit for that. But, that's where we started to make projects that the blind could do in their homes, those who wanted to do hand work; the Commission would...my department would design these projects and send out all the things that they needed to do, whether they were wash cloths or denim bags. Had everything to do and then they would do them, and they were paid for however many that was sent out.

Clarke: Did they have their own sewing machines?

Bagley: They had their own sewing machines. There was also sergers that did the dish cloths and those machines

were the Commission's. There was about three of those. And, they were very delicate machines. When those threads broke...they had three threads and if a thread broke the blind person could not re...get that going, reassemble it; it was so delicate. So, then I was trained to go out and rethread those machines so that they worked proper.

Clarke: Did anyone go out to their homes and show them how to do their projects?

Bagley: Yes, there was three gals. Ginger Downing was one and then, I can't think of the other ones. But, they would go out and show the project to the lady and show them what to do and help them get started, solve any problems that she had. So, there was three that went throughout the state.

Clarke: If there were like any patterns that needed to be cut, was that something that...

Bagley: Sylvia and I did that in our sewing room. We had a huge table and the professional machine that we cut all those patterns out, and that was all...

Clarke: So, this was basically ready for them to assemble?

Bagley: Yes.

Clarke: Do you know what they got paid?

Bagley: No, I don't. It was different things for how delicate it was. I was not in on that. But, there was the checks that went out every month and the ladies always tried to get

their boxes back, because we had a gentleman that would deliver them every other week and pick them up every other week so that he was continually...

Clarke: Were there any men that were involved in this program?

Bagley: No.

Clarke: Just women?

Bagley: Just women.

Clarke: Who did like, checked things over to make sure that they were done correctly?

Bagley: That was primarily my job. Everything that came back in I would check them, cut off all the loose threads that was at the hems. Also, I checked to see if it was...they was doing a good job, and if they were taking huge stitches and was not getting the hems then we'd send Ginger out, or the other gals out, and they would kind of work with them a little bit; take a little different stitches...little...improve your work, you know, they would try. So, that was quality...we was trying to keep our quality up.

Clarke: The Federated Women's Club, an interesting comment was made that they had towel...

Bagley: Towel Chairmen.

Clarke: Towel chairmen. (Laughter)

Bagley: They certainly did. That was a coveted position. They really liked that. They would have meetings and things just to take out the orders for towels because we had a catalog that went out every fall. And, we had pictures, and the catalog was really a professional job. Mrs. Weinman helped do that. But, we had denim bags, that was very popular, and you seen them everywhere. I seen them downtown, all the staff carried them. Good quality; I just can't explain how good they were.

We had tablecloths. Mrs. Duvall said she just washed one and it's as bright orange as it was the day she got it 15 years ago. I mean, our quality of our products was just high. And so, we had the tablecloths. We had dish cloths that were also surged around. They were the...and they were really light. Remember when we had fancy hairdos and we had these satin pillow cases?

Clarke: Yes.

Bagley: We sold lots of those, baby blankets and bibs. My grandchildren were in pictures of the catalog with the blankets, so I had that...Then we had the linen calendars that were pictures of Iowa on the linen calendar and it was that year. So, we had lots of...Oh, remember when we used to carry our shoes in a bag, because we had the boots that didn't...they were shoe boots?

Clarke: Yes.

Bagley: We had vinyl shoe bags and they were very popular, so that was very common.

Clarke: I know you had napkins to match the table cloths, which was really nice.

Bagley: Yes. The one year that we really had a huge...they were bright orange and lime green and those colors just...everybody wanted those on their patio. So, it was good. But, they would have, like I say, they would have meetings just where they made up their orders, what they wanted. We'd box them up and get them out to them as fast as we could. It was a growing concern. We had fun.

Clarke: And so, you had about 15 women, you said, that worked on that?

Bagley: Yes.

Clarke: Also, there was a note that Kenneth Jernigan, I think, one of his Commission board?

Bagley: Oh, Miss Bonnell.

Clarke: Was she one of the women that was in the...

Bagley: Women's club. When we went to New Orleans, I guess, she was my roommate. (Laughter) That was nice. She was a nice lady.

Clarke: That was for a convention?

Bagley: We went to New Orleans, yes.

Clarke: You mentioned earlier about California. Was that a convention, then, too?

Bagley: Yes. We went to Los Angeles.

30:00

Clarke: When you worked here, did most staff people go to the conventions?

Bagley: Oh, yes. The first day that I went into Mr. Jernigan's office, when I worked here, he says...that was in May and they were all getting...that's all the talk was, an assembly...a convention in, well, Los Angeles I guess. He says, "You got to plan to go." And, I go, "Oh dear." (Laughter) So, we went. We flew in an airplane and went. Yeah, they were very...everybody went. I mean it was unusual if you didn't go.

Clarke: They just pretty much closed the place down here?

Bagley: Yes. (Laughter) We went; we sure did. Well, even the conventions here, when they were in Des Moines or Cedar Rapids, we all went. It was part of your duties.

Clarke: I don't remember exactly when Home Industries kind of finished up.

Bagley: Phased out, yes. Well that was happening just about the time that Sylvia, my boss, retired. We could see that things was just closing down and we were making less products, because we knew that it was phasing out. A lot of

the women were very old and dying, and nobody wanted to come in to do it. The young ones wanted to go out and work in businesses. And, that was happening, because we were training them to do that. And so, we realized that this was all phasing out, and that was okay. But the Women's Club, they helped us to phase out of it. They took the orders of what we had to sell, and it was very systematically phased out.

Clarke: Did you kind of miss that at first?

Bagley: Yes, oh yes, I did. But, then everything was getting so busy with other areas. Aids and Appliances was just booming. We had all kinds of talking things and canes and things that kept us busy. So, I could see that that was a thing of the past and it didn't need the other girls and Sylvia, she retired, and I kind of took over what was left. It worked out okay. She was getting ready to retire and I was thinking about it, so it all worked together. (Laughter) But it was a very nice thing to do when we were doing it.

Clarke: Anything else that you can think of that you wanted to share?

Bagley: I just know that this part of my life at the Commission and with Monty, he was very happy. I could still hear him going to the bus in the morning, tapping his cane down the sidewalk heading for the bus, whistling. He was really a happy guy, and I know that when he was losing his sight I thought, oh boy, this is going to be a hard thing. But, it worked out that he was happy and when he was happy we were too, so it was okay. I made so many friends and still,

when I come back here, it's just great. I'm very glad that I had the opportunity to work here. It was great.

Clarke: So, you worked here from what years?

Bagley: '65...that's when I came to buy a house in '65, so maybe '66. Monty came for his training, and then from then on till I retired in 1997. So, it was 15, 20 years to work here. It was quite a while. My kids, that's all they know, really. They're very happy with the Commission for the Blind. It was good.

Clarke: It is like a family here isn't it?

Bagley: Oh, yes. I see a blind person on the street and I go up and talk to them. I can see...one reason why I probably got the job is because I was around a blind...and sometimes people are afraid of the blind. They just don't know how to approach. But, when I was living with Monty and being around him, it's a great experience. You have to feel good for them because they have done something that you think, oh I could never do that. They do it, yes.

Clarke: It's interesting, too, to see from the '60s until...you made a comment that Home Industries actually phased out. And, it shows you how attitudes had changed over the years.

Bagley: Absolutely. That's true. Yes.

Clarke: And, there's a lot to be done yet, but that young people weren't interested in Home Industries anymore; you

know they wanted to do more and they wanted to do different things.

Bagley: And, you see in the city around here that they're doing it. They're holding down jobs that you wouldn't have thought that they could.

Clarke: Right.

Bagley: Well, just like Neil and Monty running those cafeterias; that was a big job. And, that was the beginning of hiring blind people. But, now they've got these vending machines that they're taking care of throughout the state; that's such another thing that is so good.

Clarke: I would think, like, the Business Enterprise program was probably closer to its infancy when Monty started.

Bagley: Oh, yes they were. The vending machines were just coming in. So, that is another very good thing.

Clarke: Is there anything else that you can think of that you want to add yet?

Bagley: All I can say is, it's made us a very good start. I know that my neighbors all thought that when Monty was losing his sight and dying and can't work any more; they all felt sorry for me, but then when they found out what we were doing and how things were going, they changed their minds. They thought that blindness isn't that bad; you just got to have the training.

Clarke: That's right.

Bagley: And, get out there and get going!

Clarke: And, have that confidence to do that.

Bagley: One thing Monty with his white cane, he always had it scoured and cleaned white; he wanted a white cane. He didn't want it all marked up. And, I thought he adjusted to blindness very well, and I was very proud of him.

Clarke: Yes, you have to be proud of him; thinking about his attitude when he first lost his vision and then where he ended up at the end, you know.

Bagley: But Joe Balderson was...I'll never forget that man. His presence at our house was just...this is where you got to be...this is where it's going to happen to make your life go on, and we realized that. What would we have done without the Commission for the Blind? It's just scary.

Clarke: Was Joe just one of...I remember Jim Witte saying that there were only two Counselors at the beginning. Was he just one of two maybe, or were there more?

Bagley: All I remember is his driver was a lady, but that's the only one I remember. I don't remember anybody else.

Clarke: It might have been earlier on when they first just started.

Bagley: Because Ruth and Wally were ahead of us there. That was another relationship that came out of Aids and Appliances. She was across the hall like you were, and I couldn't believe anybody could cook and teach those kids cooking. And, that little lady was just doing it; and then you followed in her footsteps. (Laughter)

Clarke: She did not have it as convenient as I had it. (Laughter)

Bagley: No, but that's progress again. That department was just, oh, everybody liked Home Ec. But, then some people didn't even know how to open up a loaf of bread. (Laughter)

Clarke: Yes, it is interesting.

Bagley: How much training they get, because when you're at home you don't think about those things.

Clarke: You mentioned the Braille, that he had trouble. Could some of that have been...did he have neuropathy in his fingers maybe?

Bagley: No. Just that he was getting it later on, but then like I say, they was using so much tapes and machines that was coming in that he didn't carry through with that, but he could read his assignments. He read his assignments. It was just that he wasn't going to...

Clarke: He was going to rely more on the auditory...

Bagley: Yes, because...oh, my kids started learning Braille and I did, so, because he would write us letters, but we had to learn to read Braille to figure out what he was saying; but mostly tapes, then.

Clarke: Very interesting. Anything else?

Bagley: No, I can't think of anything else.

40:49

(End of Recording)

Beverly Tietz

3-26-11